Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method of recording an input image as digital data, comprising:

determining input bounding boxes corresponding to objects in the input image;

comparing data describing the input bounding boxes to data describing a set of reference bounding boxes, the data describing the bounding boxes relating to at least one of image type, color, and color uniformity;

for an input bounding box sufficiently similar to a reference bounding box, comparing objects in the input bounding box and the reference bounding box; and

if the object in the input bounding box is sufficiently similar to the object in the reference bounding box, coding the object in the input bounding box using a pointer to the object in the reference bounding box.

2. **(CANCELLED)**

3. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, the comparing data describing the input bounding boxes step including considering at least one dimension of the input bounding box.

4. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, the comparing data describing the input bounding boxes step including determining that a number of input bounding boxes sufficiently similar to a reference bounding box is greater than a predetermined threshold.

5. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, the comparing objects step including considering a plurality of blocks within the input image bounding box.

6. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising

scanning a hard-copy image; and

deriving data relating to the input image from the hard-copy image.

7. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising

scanning a hard-copy image; and

deriving data relating to the reference bounding boxes from the hard-copy image.

8. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising

scanning a plurality of hard-copy images; and

deriving data relating to the reference bounding boxes from the hard-copy images.

9. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, further comprising

retaining data relating to a plurality of images in a database; and

determining one of the plurality of images to be the reference image.

10. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The method of claim ~~1~~ 9, the determining step including performing a matching operation between one of the plurality of images and the input image.